

Timely Tidbits ...

Fitness Challenge II

Registrations for Romulus Mayor Alan R. Lambert's second fitness challenge will be accepted through Sunday, March 8, at the Romulus Athletic Center. RAC membership is not required to participate in this free, nine-week program. The person who loses the highest percentage of his/her body weight will receive the grand prize: a one-year family membership to the RAC, including a half-hour session with a personal trainer each week.

Participants in the first Mayor's Fitness Challenge lost nearly 400 pounds altogether.

For info, call 734-942-2223.

Bowl-a-Thon To Benefit Romulus Animal Shelter

A 9-Pin No-Tap Tournament to benefit the Friends of the New Romulus Animal Shelter Fund will be held at Romulus Lanes (37452 Huron River Drive) at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, April 24. The fifth annual event – dedicated to the memory of former Shelter Fund supporter Frank Ayers – will feature ladies' and men's mystery games, cash prizes, and pizza, as well as a 50/50 raffle.

Cost is \$25 per person. Space is limited, so early sign-up is strongly recommended. To register, call Romulus Lanes (734-941-6200), Romulus City Councilman Bill Wadsworth (941-0616), or Joe Ozog (941-3466).

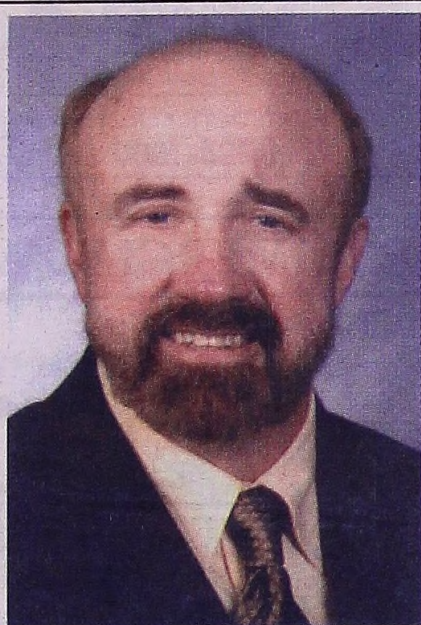
City-wide Yard Sale

Romulus residents are invited to take part in the annual City-wide Yard Sale, set for Thursday, May 14, through Sunday, May 17. (If two or more of the sale dates are "rained out," the event will be rescheduled for May 28–31.)

To register for a free sale permit – and have your address included in free newspaper advertising for the event – stop in at the City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation (located in the Romulus Athletic Center at 35765 Northline) between Monday, March 23, and Wednesday, April 22. Residents registering after the deadline will receive a free permit, but may not be included in any advertisements.

For info, call 734-941-8665. □

Crout To Challenge Lambert in Romulus Mayoral Race



Romulus City Councilman Harry Crout has announced his plans to run for mayor.

Romulus City Councilman Harry Crout says he'll be running for mayor this November, challenging incumbent Alan R. Lambert.

The 33-year Romulus resident announced his candidacy at Mt. Olive Baptist Church on February 8.

Crout, who is coming to the end of his first four-year term on council, sees himself as an advocate for everyday Romulus citizens.

"My biggest accomplishment as a councilman is being a concerned voice for the people and always putting the residents' needs first," he stated. "I am a councilman for the people, not the administration."

"When the administration brings something to the council that I agree with and feel is best for the community, I vote to support it. However, when I disagree, I explain my dissent to the people of the city so that they are informed about my position."

Disagreements with Mayor Lambert have occurred fairly frequently for Crout,

who feels that the community "has endured neglect" because of Lambert's "self-serving politics."

"I am running for mayor to restore integrity as well as working-class values to the office of Mayor of the City of Romulus," said Crout, a 60-year-old retiree who started his career as a blue-collar employee at General Motors. "Our city needs a hard-working mayor who puts the success of Romulus above anything or anyone else."

"I am going to bring reform to Romulus to make this city successful," he continued. "I will bring a work ethic to the mayor's office that has not been seen since the Oakley administration, and start to put Romulus on the road to recovery. I will begin by reversing the abuses of the Lambert administration and assuring that my office is always open to the citizens of the city."

Crout identified several concerns with current policies as well as areas for proposed change.

"City vehicles are being used on a personal basis by the mayor and whoever he designates," he said. "Some employees drive City vehicles to and from work from as far away as Hamburg, with citizens of Romulus footing the gas bills."

Also noted by Crout were his beliefs that:

- there are not enough Romulus residents holding appointment-level positions in City government;
- there is a lack of police presence in our neighborhoods;
- the Fire Department needs a 24-hour shift, and improvements are needed in our ability to provide hospital transport to citizens who need care;
- more money for major road repairs could be found through the stimulus package, grants, or Tax Increment Finance Authority (TIFA) dollars; and
- the Lambert administration is not working proactively enough with businesses to fill the empty buildings downtown, and should be making more of an effort to improve the City's relationship with the Downtown Development Authority (DDA).

Crout promised that he would "make every effort" to bring new businesses and jobs to Romulus.

"We need retail shopping for our residents. The goal is to put [new businesses] on the tax rolls to take some of the burden off our taxpayers. I believe that TIFA funding should meet these goals."

To learn more about Crout's campaign, call him at 734-658-2251 or send him an e-mail at harrycrout@yahoo.com. □

State House Passes Geiss Plan to Increase School Dropout Age to 18

The Michigan House of Representatives has passed a plan that would increase the high-school dropout age to 18. State Representative Doug Geiss (D-Taylor), who proposed House Bill 4030, believes it will ensure that every student gets the education and training needed to succeed in the 21st-century economy.

"There is nothing more vital to our students than receiving a complete education," said Geiss. "The students of today are the workers of tomorrow, which is why it is so important for every student to get the best education possible. By staying in school longer, our students will be able to reach their full potential and compete for the good jobs of the 21st century."

Geiss's plan would increase the dropout age from 16 to 18. It would not apply to children who are home-schooled. Michigan's current dropout age was established in 1896, when Michigan was largely dependent on agriculture, and many children left school at an early age to work on the family farm. More than a century later, the

state's industry has changed dramatically, making it difficult for young people to find good-paying jobs without finishing school.

Geiss noted that the lack of a high-school diploma has lasting and well-documented impacts, according to Voices for Michigan's Children. High-school dropouts are more likely to be unemployed, rely more on government assistance, and become involved in crime. Higher levels of educational attainment lead to higher wages and income, as well as jobs with opportunities for advancement and more protection against unemployment. Additionally, a high-school diploma is a minimum requirement for most jobs.

"We can't let our young students think that getting an education in this day and age is optional," Geiss stated. "Michigan will need a highly educated workforce to be a leader in the 21st century. Keeping our young people in school longer will help ensure that they become productive members of our workforce and help move Michigan forward." □

Geiss Opens New Office

State Representative Doug Geiss has opened a local office on the second floor of Taylor City Hall (23555 Goddard Road). Hours will be from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Mondays and Fridays. He has also established a new toll-free phone number: 1-888-REP-GEISS (888-737-4347).

Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: All letters to the editor MUST contain the writer's signature and a telephone number where he/she can be reached to verify the letter's authenticity.

Names will be withheld by request only in exceptional cases where, in our opinion, there is a legitimate reason to do so. All letters requesting anonymity will be treated confidentially, regardless of whether or not they are printed.

The little paper reserves the right to edit all letters for clarity, content, and brevity.

* * *

Reader Comments on Wells, Senior Center, and RAC

To the Editor:

The hazardous-waste injection wells, located on Citrin Drive in Romulus, have become an issue again. I'm thankful that we have a city council committed to opposing the wells. It's reported that the State is planning a public hearing on revoking the well site's permits in April. It's vital that residents attend and make it clear to the State that we do not want hazardous wells in Romulus. The Canadian economy is suffering like ours, and closed factories do not produce waste. Why would the Detroit Police and Fire Retirement System want to invest another \$10 million?

Romulus Mayor Alan Lambert takes credit for our new Senior Center, but it was the Romulus City Council that voted yes to take 10 years of federal Community Development Block Grant money to pay for it. It is half paid for, and we have only five more years to go.

In September 1999, the voters of Romulus said "no" to a recreation center. City Council voted "yes" for the Romulus TIFA

(Tax Increment Finance Authority) to spend \$26 million for the Romulus Athletic Center. Do residents know how large a bond was taken to pay for it, and when that will be paid for?

I'm also concerned about operating expenses for the Romulus Athletic Center. Will we be able to reach the 4,300 memberships required? TIFA is paying \$640,000 for the year 2009. How long can TIFA contribute funds to cover costs? Residents deserve answers and to be kept informed.

John Clark
Romulus

Romulus Firefighters, Police Don't Support Waste Wells

To the Editor:

At the Romulus City Council meeting of February 23 and in recent issues of Detroit-area papers, the possibility of the local deep-injection wells resuming operations is once again news.

At the council meeting, many residents spoke about the wells, and said they could not believe that police officers and firefighters supported the wells with their pension funds. The members of Romulus Fire Fighters Local 4126 would like to state that our union does *not* support the wells with our pension fund, nor do the Romulus police officers. It is the Detroit firefighters and police officers who support the wells with their pension program.

As emergency responders here, and as (in many cases) residents as well, we are also concerned with the potential problems that may arise from the wells and the paths taken by trucks from the expressways to the site.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Fire Fighters union if you have any questions regarding this matter.

John Thiede, vice-president
Romulus Fire Fighters Local 4126

Romulus Roads in Desperate Need of Repair

To the Editor:

While riding through Romulus, I have noticed that some of the roads are just plain horrible. After this crazy winter, consisting of some outrageous weather, the roads have begun to crack. I have experienced that these cracks and potholes have grown to enormous sizes.

Driving down these roads can be both dangerous and costly. In Romulus, there has been numerous occasions where I have seen cars swerve into another lane of traffic just to avoid hitting a pothole. Hitting these mammoth-size potholes can also have consequences such as damaging your car to the point that it becomes very costly to fix.

I wrote this letter to express my feelings about the many consequences of not having decent, respectable roads to drive on.

Carman Plank
Romulus High School student ☐

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Business Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday

The little paper is published biweekly by Nite-Lite Graphics, P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, Michigan 48174-0038.

Nite-Lite Graphics and *the little paper* are owned and operated by Evelyn H. Atkins.

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Romulus To Receive Federal Stimulus Funds for Four Key Road Projects

The City of Romulus has secured approximately \$1.74 million in federal stimulus funds for four crucial road projects that will "significantly help strengthen the community, create local construction jobs, and improve the quality of life for residents," according to a statement released March 5. The four projects are ready to be started immediately.

"The City of Romulus is fortunate to receive these important funds ... and we are grateful to have successfully secured the money we need to improve our roads," said Mayor Alan R. Lambert. "These projects send a clear signal to businesses that Romulus is a great place to invest and create jobs. These projects will help Romulus and the region get in gear and back on the road to recovery."

The two main projects are:

- Shook Road between Goddard and Wick roads, and
- Huron River Drive between Hannan and Goddard roads.

Between them, the two projects total a little over two miles. About \$1.4 million in stimulus funds will pay for the projects.

The remaining two projects are:

- improvements to 1.5 miles of Middlebelt Road between Smith and Van Born roads, and
- replacement of the Goddard Road extension bridge over Merriman.

Because these two projects are multi-jurisdictional, Romulus's portion of the projects' total \$3.3-million cost is approximately \$320,000, which will be covered by

federal stimulus funds.

"Our team, led by Department of Public Works director Tom Wilson, put Romulus in a strong position to receive these funds, and I'm really proud of the work Tom and his team did," Lambert said. "We are also very grateful to our congressional delegation, Congressman John Dingell and Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow, for all their leadership, hard work, and support; to Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano and his team; and to all the men and women who helped make this important step possible."

"This is about jobs, strengthening our community, and building a better future for Romulus," he added.

DPW director Wilson noted, "These funds can now help us improve some important roads in Romulus that needed upgrades right away. They serve families, local businesses, and neighborhoods ... My team and I are eager and ready to get to work right away."

Altogether, around \$6 million in total federal stimulus money for Wayne County local-jurisdiction projects was announced by the Wayne County federal aid committee overseeing the stimulus funds. Twenty-six projects were selected altogether, including the four in Romulus, from a Transportation Improvement Program list. Communities that requested federal stimulus funds for local projects were required to ensure that the projects met several key criteria, including readiness, cost effectiveness, and community benefit, among others. □

Free Smoke Detectors Available at TFD

The Taylor Fire Department is making 300 new smoke detectors available at no cost to Taylor residents – thanks to the generosity of holiday shoppers at Southland Center.

Southland gathered about \$1,100 in coins tossed into fountains at the shopping center over a three-month period. The

funds, which are turned over to charity on a regular basis, were given to the Taylor Fire Department, which purchased the smoke detectors.

Keith Molini, operations manager for General Growth Properties, Inc., said the funds were gathered from fountains in the

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Keith Molini (left), Southland operations manager, and John Hager, Taylor Fire Marshal, hold smoke detectors purchased with coins tossed into fountains like the one pictured behind them. Photo by Dave Gorgon

RPD's Newest Police Officer Sworn In



Romulus Police Officer Matthew Reese (second from right) was sworn in during a brief ceremony held at Romulus City Hall on March 2. Among those on hand to congratulate him were Mayor Alan R. Lambert (second from left) and Deputy Chiefs Michael St. Andre (left) and John Leacher. Photo by R. E. Kadau

Guest Commentary

Lambert Recognizes Local Standouts

By Mayor Alan R. Lambert, City of Romulus

There are so many talented and hard-working people in Romulus. Oftentimes, the best stories go untold, so it is important to take a moment to recognize local achievement whenever we can.

On behalf of the City of Romulus, I would like to congratulate these recent standouts and send them my heartfelt thanks for representing our community so well.

Norman Wahla and Krystle Lapkewych

These two highly trained and skilled lifeguards recently saved the life of a little girl at the Romulus Athletic Center. They spotted the girl in distress and sprang into action. After she was pulled from the water, CPR was initiated within seconds. She was breathing on her own by the time she was transported to the hospital.

I commend the lifeguards and our emergency personnel for their quick actions and professionalism. I recently spoke to the girl's mother, who reported that her daughter is doing well, and is in fact looking forward to returning to the RAC.

MLK Day Event Organizers/Participants

Our annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day program is perhaps the best observance of all the programs dedicated to Dr. King nationwide. This annual event brings out the best in all of us, and reminds us how far we have come as a community.

African-American History Month Event Organizers/Participants

They included:

- volunteers and participants at the Soul Food Dinner held at Romulus Middle School on February 25. We all had such a great time and even better food!
- the members of the African-American literary class at Romulus High School. The students conducted a living "wax" museum by portraying historical African-American heroes who significantly contributed to our nation and way of

life. For me, their performance was deeply moving, creative, and relevant. Well done!

Ice-sculpting Award-winners

- Congratulations to the Romulus Community Schools culinary arts program students who won awards at the 2009 Plymouth Ice Festival. They were: Lisa Stricker, 2nd place; Cathleen Wood, 4th place; and Vera Redden, 6th place.

Romulus High School Wrestling Team

The RHS wrestling team members are to be commended for their recent victories. Their athleticism is greatly appreciated.

Theresa Beard

Congratulations to Theresa Beard, who has been recognized as "exceptional parent of the year" by the Michigan Council for Exceptional Children.

Elizabeth Buckley

Romulus resident Elizabeth Buckley, who has been named Mrs. Wayne County America, will represent our city (and all of Wayne County) in the upcoming Mrs. Michigan competition. We wish her all the best, and thank her for representing the City of Romulus with grace and dignity.

Mayor's Fitness Challenge Participants

The winners of the first Mayor's Fitness Challenge, sponsored by the Romulus Athletic Center, are Rob DeMoisey, Justin Chapman, Greg Scott, Dionne Sledge, Mardele Tracy, and Laurie Granberry. Altogether, the group lost nearly 400 pounds. Congratulations, and keep up the heart-healthy good work.

(Note: Registration for the second Fitness Challenge ends Sunday, March 8.)

* * *

Thank you to all the residents of Romulus for your continued involvement in our community and our schools. I am honored to serve you, and look forward to working with you. Together, we can ensure that our community continues to shine! □

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Donations of Old Cell Phones Will Net Free Prepaid Calling Cards for Soldiers



A cell phone collection effort led by Taylor Police Corporal Joel Pinnegar will ultimately yield prepaid calling cards for U.S. troops overseas.

Taylor Police Corporal Joel Pinnegar has started collecting old cell phones as part of an effort that will send prepaid calling cards to U.S. troops stationed overseas.

Pinnegar has set up a collection box inside the Taylor Police Station, located at 23515 Goddard Road, just east of City Hall. All phones collected will be forwarded to the organizers of Cell Phones for Soldiers - who will, in turn, send them to ReCellular, which pays Cell Phones for Soldiers enough per phone to provide an hour of talk time for soldiers abroad.

Pinnegar, whose son Jacob just enlisted in the Air Force and will be a member of security services, said he researched the Cell Phones for Soldiers effort and learned it was

started in 2004 by teenagers Robbie and Brittany Bergquist of Norwell, Massachusetts. The brother and sister have raised millions of dollars and distributed more than 500,000 prepaid calling cards.

"They send phone cards to Iraq and Afghanistan so our troops can freely call home," Pinnegar said. "It's grown to huge proportions."

After getting permission from the Police Department administration to solicit old cell phones, Pinnegar registered as a drop-off site - one of more than 3,000 collection locations nationwide.

Pinnegar said a collection site has to be organized by someone with a fairly high profile and has to be readily accessible to the public.

"We're open every day, every minute," Pinnegar said. "I figured we'd go ahead and do it."

For the second time, Pinnegar also is leading a collection effort for old bulletproof vests to send to the U.S. armed forces. A couple of years ago, he sent out a notice that he was collecting vests for service personnel, and wound up sending 10 to a military police unit in Iraq. At the time, a member of Pinnegar's church was in that unit.

"His unit got the vests and used them," Pinnegar said. "Now we're doing it again."

"I know several guys going through boot camp," he continued. "My son Jacob will be getting one of my vests. The military doesn't issue the body armor that we have, which stops pistol rounds."

For more information on the cell phone collection effort, visit the Web site www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com. □

Free Smoke Detectors

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Center Court near Best Buy and in the West Court near Olga's Restaurant.

"Southland is making the donation, but it's actually our customers who did it," Molini said. "People who toss their change into the fountain should be pleased to know that the money is going toward such a life-saving cause."

Taylor Fire Marshal John Hager said each home should have at least one smoke detector on every level of the house. He said batteries should be checked regularly, and smoke detectors should be changed every 10 years.

"We were out of them," Hager said. "This was perfect timing, being the cold-weather season."

He thanked Southland staff and mall customers for their generosity.

Molini called the smoke-detector giveaway a "great program," and said Southland would be glad to participate annually.

Taylor residents interested in a free smoke detector should visit the Midtown Fire Station (23345 Goddard Road) while supplies last. □

Taylor PD Gets Grant

The City of Taylor Police Department is one of only two in the U.S. selected to assist in a cooperative agreement with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration focusing on enforcing state booster seat law requirements.

Taylor (population 65,000) and the city of Wenatchee, Washington (population 28,000) received federal funds to develop and evaluate various strategies for enforcing the requirements, and to recommend effective strategies that can be implemented in other communities nationwide.

Taylor PD Traffic Division will oversee the \$283,000 project, composed of several components: public information/education about Michigan's new Child Restraint ("booster seat") Law; enforcement of the new requirements from March 2009 through February 2010 in targeted locations throughout the city, and the recording of all relevant data. □

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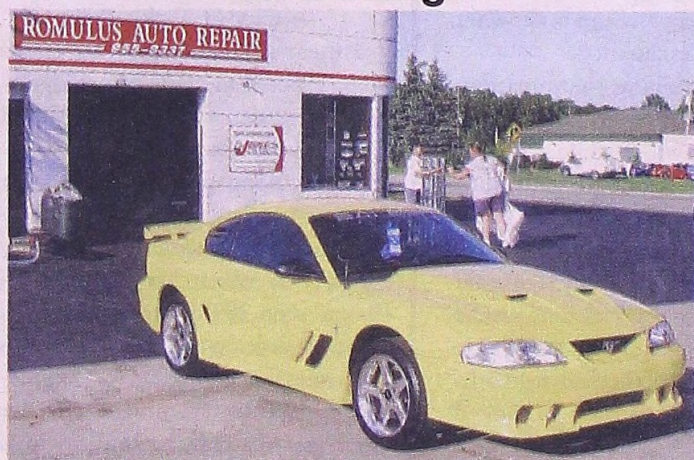
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Special Programs Make Learning Fun



Fourth-graders at Cory Elementary in Romulus wrote Valentine poems to share with residents at Willow Creek Assisted Living Center (Belleville). Pictured are: (from left) Zachary Ward, Deborah Bland, Kathy Hurst (Cory LEAGUE service-learning coach), Shirley Straub (Willow Creek resident), Cynthia Price (retired teacher), Dawn Pluff (teacher), Ethan Morgan, and Miyona Barden-Clark.



A Soul Food Dinner held at Romulus Middle School on February 25 included tributes to community leaders Oliver Warren (back, center), Lloyd Coleman (back, second from right), and Dorothy Byrd (front, left), written (respectively) by student reporters (back, from left) Aric Voil, Indigo Carr, and Gregory Tanner. Also pictured are Zelma Beanum (center) and Mrs. Williams. Photo by R. E. Kadam



A "Nature's Energy Education Day" held at Taylor's Heritage Park Petting Farm on February 28 featured demonstrations of solar-powered toys and the farm's new wind turbine. Among those who visited with Sharon Vespremi (right), education coordinator at the farm, and Louie the Lightning Bug from DTE Energy were Abigail, age 4, and Annabelle, 6. The Nunnery sisters, residents of Ferndale, came to the farm with their grandmother, Carolyn Nunnery (not pictured).

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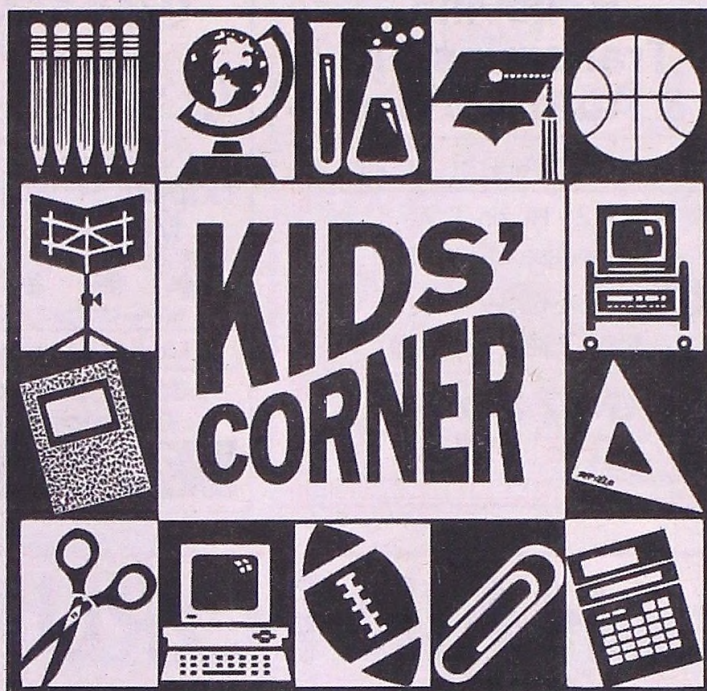
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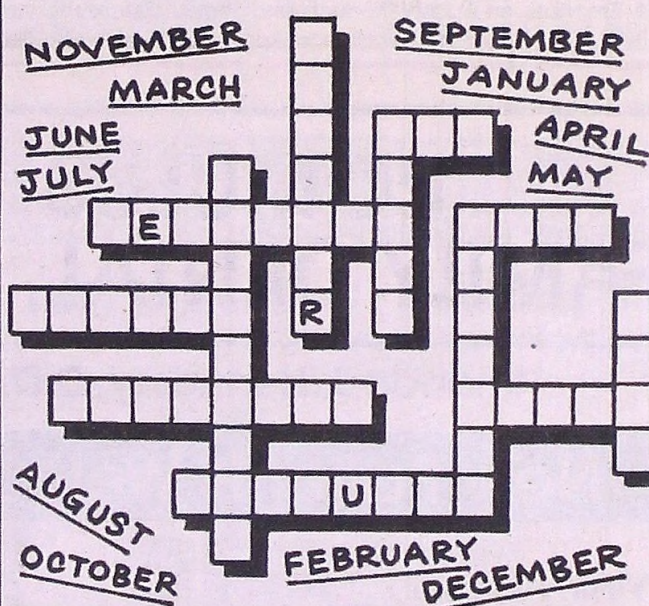


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K3930006

Going for the green

What do you know about St. Patrick's Day? Here are some interesting facts.

- St. Patrick's Day, set aside to honor St. Patrick, was not his birthday; it was the day of his death.

- Besides being a religious holiday, St. Patrick's Day came to be thought of as the "arrival of spring." Cattle were led to pastures, and Irish farmers planted grain.

- In Ireland, St. Patrick's Day often features the old Gaelic sport of *hurling*. (It is something like our field hockey.)

- This day's symbol is a green shamrock. It looks like a clover, with three small leaves, and is called a *trefoil*.

- There is a town in Florida named *Shamrock*. Every year people send letters and cards there to be postmarked.

- What is a "Shillelagh"? It is an Irish symbol (and word) for a short, fat, oak club.

- Why picture an Irishman wearing a top hat and swinging a cane?

Irish countrymen used to wear a jaunty hat with a high crown, and white socks below tight knee britches.

- Below are some Irish-American traditional dishes:

- 1) Corned beef and cabbage;
- 2) Irish stew;
- 3) Irish soda bread;
- 4) Mulligatawny soup;
- 5) Mashed potatoes with shredded cabbage (Colcannon).

- The "leprechaun" legends are fascinating.

Most leprechauns are said to be rich and have bad tempers. They don't want to live near humans, but if you happen to capture one — don't let him out of your sight.

Why not? As a ransom, he might tell you where his "pot of gold" is buried.

Of course it's all in fun — so make a fun day of it! Happy St. Patrick's Day.

St. Patrick's Day Scramble

1. MAORKSHC
2. ENRGE
3. EPPI
4. REPAAD
5. ALEDNRI
6. KAESSN



1. Shamrock 2. Green 3. Pipe 4. Parade 5. Ireland
6. Snakes

Answers

K3930005

Community Calendar

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174-0038; FAX it to 734-992-2052; or e-mail it to thelittlepaper@comcast.net no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, March 13.

Belleville

Irish Dinner Benefits Wayne County Fair Association

The Wayne County Fair Association will host an Irish Dinner fund-raiser at the County Fairgrounds (10871 Quirk Road) on Saturday, March 14, at 6 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for adults; \$7 for kids 12 and under.

For information, call Mary Zellner at 734-942-1684.

Spaghetti Dinner Fund-raiser

Myrtle Lodge #89 Blue Wave Club (515 Main Street) will hold an all-you-can-eat Spaghetti Dinner fund-raiser to benefit the lodge and local charities on Wednesday, March 25, from 1 to 6:30 p.m.

Cost is \$6 for adults; \$3 for children ages 6 to 10. Children under 6 eat free!

"Legacy Five" in Concert

Bethany Bible Church of Belleville will present "Legacy Five" in concert at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 27, in the auditorium at Romulus High School (9650 Wayne Road).

Tickets are \$12 in advance; \$14 at the door (if available).

For information, call 734-697-7456 or visit www.bethanybiblechurch.com.

Huron Township

Nursery To Hold Open House

Huron Countryside Co-op Nursery (located in St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 19109 Craig Street) will hold an Open House on Tuesday, March 24, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and from 5 to 7 p.m. The event will give parents of prospective students a chance to see what the nursery offers for three- and four-year-olds. HCCN programs focus on kindergarten readiness, social development, art, music, and exercise. Field trips are also included in the nursery's curriculum.

Call 734-355-9700 for information.

Card-making Classes

One-day, seasonal card-making classes will have students creating three make-and-take projects featuring ribbon, brads, eyelets, vellum, stamps, and more. Classes will be held at 7 p.m. at Huron High School (32044 Huron River Drive) on the following dates (subject to sufficient enrollment):

- March 26 – Easter, and
- May 6 – Friendship/Spring.

Cost is \$15. Advance registration is required.

For information, call the YWCA at 734-284-9030.

Romulus

Class of 2000 Plans 10-year Reunion

Romulus High School's Class of 2000 is planning its 10-year reunion, to be held sometime in 2010. Planners for the event are looking for class members' contact information (home address, phone number, and e-mail address) so they can be included on the invitation list. Members are also welcome to take part in meetings to discuss and make decisions regarding the reunion.

For information, call Christina Wands at 734-272-6218, or send her an e-mail at mexicangoddess82@yahoo.com. Information can also be found on Myspace (<http://groups.myspace.com/classof00>).

Lenten Fish Fry

St. Aloysius Catholic Church (37200 Neville Street) will host an All-You-Can-Eat Lenten Fish Fry from 4:30 to 7 p.m. each Friday through April 3.

Dinner includes choice of baked or fried fish; macaroni & cheese, seasoned potatoes, or French fries; green beans, cole slaw, roll, dessert, and beverage.

Cost is \$8 for adults; \$4 for children ages 4 to 10. Children 3 and under eat free (with adult purchase). Three-piece carry-out dinners will be available for \$8 each.

For information, call 734-941-5056.

Roast Beef Dinner

The next in a series of roast beef dinners hosted by Community United Methodist Church (11160 Olive Street) will be held Saturday, March 14, from 5 to 7 p.m.

The dinners – open to all – include roast beef, mashed potatoes, vegetables, roll, dessert, and beverage. Takeouts and deliveries to the Romulus area are available.

Succeeding dinners will be held the second Saturday of each month.

Suggested donation is \$8 for adults; \$4 for children 6 to 12.

For information, call 734-941-0736.

Second Monday Book Club

Meetings of the Second Monday Book Club – open to everyone 18 and older – are held at the Romulus Public Library (11121 Wayne Road) from 7 to 8:15 p.m. Advance registration is not required for this free program; just read the suggested book, then drop in and enjoy the discussion and refreshments.

Books for future discussions include:

- *Thief of Souls* by Ann Benson (April 13), and
- *Anatomy of a Murder* by Robert Traver (May 11).

For information, call 734-942-7589.

Used Book Sale

The Friends of the Romulus Public Library will hold its semiannual Used Book Sale at the Library (11121 Wayne Road) April 20–22 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and April 25 from 12 to 5 p.m.

Monday through Wednesday, shoppers will find adult hardcovers for \$1.50, adult paperbacks for \$.50 to \$1, children's hardcovers for \$.50, children's paperbacks for \$.25, and most DVDs/videos/CDs/records for \$1.

Saturday, aka "Bag Day," will feature even bigger deals. Shoppers can fill a sack with books for just \$2.25.

For information, call 734-942-7589.

Taylor

No-limit Texas Hold 'Em Tournament

A No-Limit Texas Hold 'Em Tournament, which raises funds for the Junior League World Series in Taylor, is set for Friday, March 13, at the Ramada Inn (20777 Eureka Road). Registration will begin at 6 p.m.; games will start at 7 p.m.

The tournament is open to the first 150 paid entries. The buy-in is \$50. All beer, pop, water, and pizza is included. The minimum guaranteed first-place prize is \$1,000. Ten percent of the field will cash.

To reserve a spot in the tournament, call Jeff Pizzo at 313-914-5037 or Dan Bzura at 313-292-9901.

Blood Drive

The Taylor Police Department will sponsor an American Red Cross blood drive from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17, at the former main fire station (11101 Pine Street, just south of City Hall).

Appointments may be made by calling Marge Maladecki at 734-374-1445. Walk-ins will also be accepted.

Craft Time at the Library Will Feature Easter Theme

Children in grades K–3 are invited to take part in the Taylor Community Library's next Craft Time program, to be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25.

Although there is no fee to attend the program, which is sponsored by the Friends of the Library, advance registration is required because space is limited.

For information, call 734-287-4840.

Youths Invited to Attend Pistons Game

Members of Taylor Mayor Cameron G. Priebe's Youth Advisory Council are inviting students in grades 7–12 to attend a Detroit Pistons game at The Palace of Auburn Hills on Sunday, March 29.

For \$40, each attendee will receive a ride to the Palace on a Trinity bus, a ticket to the game vs. the Philadelphia 76ers, a chance to sit in VIP seats during the Pistons' warm-up, and a Pistons duffel bag.

Participants must check in at the Taylor Recreation Center (22805 Goddard Road) no later than 3 p.m., on the day of the game, since the bus leaves at 3:15 p.m. No refunds will be given.

Tickets must be purchased by Friday, March 20, at the Recreation Center.

For information about the trip, call the Department of Golf, Parks and Recreation at 734-374-3906.

For information on the Youth Advisory Council or the group's other activities, call 734-374-4033.

Easter Egg Hunts

Easter egg hunts for Taylor children ages three to eight are set for Saturday, April 4, at Heritage Park. Families will report to the Activity Building, then be transported to the baseball field for the event.

Kids will be divided into three groups:

- ages 3–4 (activities at 9 a.m., followed by an Easter egg hunt at 10 a.m.),
- ages 5–6 (activities at 11 a.m., followed by an egg hunt at noon), and
- ages 7–8 (activities at 1 p.m., followed by an egg hunt at 2 p.m.).

Staff members will provide bags. Children should not bring bags or baskets.

Advance registration (required) will begin Monday, March 9, at the Parks and Recreation Office (22805 Goddard Road).

Cost is \$3 per child. Photos with the Easter Bunny and face-painting will be offered for an additional fee.

For information, call 734-374-3906.

Girl Scouts' Cookie Sale: Sweet Success

A local Girl Scouts troop that set up a cookie booth in the lobby of Public Service Credit Union in Romulus last month enjoyed sweet success. In less than two hours, the girls from Troop 244 sold over 100 boxes of cookies and had plans to return the next afternoon.

PSCU president and CEO Dean Trudeau said the credit union has been involved with many community activities, but having a cookie booth was a new experience.

"Scouting has a long tradition of service, just like credit unions, so it seemed a natural to open our lobby for a local troop to sell their cookies," he stated. "The members and employees all loved having the girls here. 'It was a real win-win for everyone!'"

Becca Leahy, vice-president of Troop 244, was pleased with the girls' success.

"Today was so much fun, and I can't believe how many cookies we sold in just a few hours," she said. "Everyone was so nice. We're lucky to have a credit union that cares about us." □

Sassy Seniors

For information about these or other programs, contact the appropriate center.

Romulus

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AARP Offers Free Tax-preparation Service

Senior citizens (age 60 and over) and people with disabilities or low incomes are invited to take advantage of a free tax-preparation service that will be offered at the Romulus Senior Center each Wednesday through April 15. *The service will be available by appointment only.*

Call the Center for more information, including a list of required materials/forms.

Lunch Out

This month's "lunch out" destinations will be Polonus (Thursday, March 19) and Logan's Roadhouse (Monday, March 23). Both trips depart at 11 a.m.

Transportation is free. Advance registration is required.

Monday Shopping Trips

Romulus seniors are invited to ride the Center's bus, free of charge, to shop at Wal-Mart on March 9 and Kmart on March 16. Transportation will depart from the Center at 9:30 a.m.

Reservations are accepted on a first-come/first-served basis.

Casino Trips

If you're feeling lucky, you won't want to miss these upcoming trips:

- **Windsor Raceway Slots** (Thursday, March 26; \$15),
- **Odawa Casino** (Thursday, April 16; \$120), and
- **Windsor Raceway Slots** (Tuesday, April 28; \$15).

"Red Hat Society" Outing

The Romulus Senior Center's "Sassy Red Hatters" are planning a trip to Logan's Roadhouse, followed by a movie, on Tuesday, March 10.

For more information, call the Center.

Club #1

The senior social group known as Club #1 gets together at the Romulus Senior Center each Tuesday at 11 a.m. Scheduled activities include:

- March 10 (meeting, birthday celebration, games, bag lunch),
 - March 17 (trip to Country Buffet and Target),
 - March 24 (meeting, games, bag lunch), and
 - March 31 (meeting, bingo, bag lunch).
- New faces are always welcome!

Jewelry Class

The multitalented Maria Lambert's next jewelry class is set for 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18. Come and make bracelets, earrings, and more!

Cost is \$10 per person for supplies. Advance registration required.

Regular Programs

Free or low-cost weekly programs offered by the Romulus Senior Center include:

- bunco (Tuesdays, 1 p.m.),

- bingo (Wednesdays, 1 p.m.),
- fun night (Wednesdays, 5 p.m.),
- game day (Thursdays, 1 p.m.),
- quilting (Thursdays, 6 p.m.), and
- walking club (Fridays, 11 a.m., at the Romulus Athletic Center).

Taylor

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Homestead Tax Help

Volunteers at the Ford Senior Center will be on hand each Monday *by appointment only* to help seniors (age 65 and older) and disabled individuals prepare their Homestead Property Tax forms.

Call the Center for an appointment.

Learn One-stroke Painting

Jan Berry's next one-stroke painting class – to be offered at the Ford Senior Center on Wednesday, March 18, from 1 to 3 p.m. – will feature a "landscapes" theme.

Cost is \$15 per class. Call the Center for more information.

Quilt Exhibit

The Ford Senior Center bus will be traveling to the Belleville Area Museum at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, March 27, to see the "Patches & Patterns" quilt exhibit.

Cost is \$2 for transportation plus \$2 for admission. Bring additional funds for a stop for ice cream.

Advance registration is required.

"An Afternoon at the Movies"

Enjoy a gourmet buffet and dessert, then check out Tyler Perry's *Madea Goes to Jail* (with free popcorn and beverages) on Tuesday, March 17. Bus will depart from the Center at 10:15 a.m. and return at about 4 p.m.

A cost of \$18.75 includes transportation, lunch, and admission. Advance registration is required.

Greektown Casino

If you love to gamble, but hate the hassles of traffic and parking, this trip to Greektown Casino is for you! A chartered bus will depart from the Ford Senior Center at 9 a.m. on Thursday, April 16, and return at approximately 4 p.m.

A cost of just \$10 includes transportation plus a \$15 voucher good for food or money. Space is limited; sign up early!

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day

The Ford Senior Center is planning a St. Patrick's Day celebration on Wednesday, March 18, from 2 to 5 p.m. Highlights will include chicken pot pies, refreshments, and music by Eddie O.

Tickets (\$7 each) must be purchased by Wednesday, March 11.

Garden Party

Celebrate the arrival of spring at the Senior Center's Garden Party, set for Monday, April 20, from 1 to 5 p.m. The event will feature catering by Veronica's and music by Mike Wolverton.

Tickets (\$15 each; available in advance only) are now on sale. No tickets will be sold after Monday, April 13. □

Center Offers Sweet Treats on Fat Tuesday



Taking full advantage of Fat Tuesday's "excuse" to enjoy paczki at the Romulus Senior Center were Nellie Wehunt (left) and Theresa Golembiewski. Photo by R. E. Kadau

Senior Luncheon Features Valentine Theme



Mayor Alan R. Lambert (second from right) enjoyed talking with Louise Shropshire (right) and other senior citizens who attended the Romulus Senior Center's annual Valentine Luncheon, held on February 24. Photo by R. E. Kadau

Cards Made Valentine's Day Even Sweeter



Geneva Manley (left) and Barbara Flannery were among the recipients of about 80 Valentine's Day cards created for local senior citizens by Clarence Randall Elementary School's Dragonflies Junior Garden Club in Taylor. The club, under the direction of leaders Maria Burt and Debra Zilka, also made beautiful decorations for the Ford Senior Activity Center's Sweetheart Dance.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you are a resident of Belleville, Brownstown, New Boston, Romulus, or Taylor, **the little paper** will be happy to print an announcement of your new addition (child or grandchild). If possible, please enclose a photograph of your new arrival. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

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Romulus, MI 48174-0038

Baby's Name _____
Birthdate _____ Time _____
Weight _____ Length _____
Birthplace _____
Parents _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Siblings _____

Maternal Grandparents _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Paternal Grandparents _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions): _____

Attach any additional information concerning the birth to this form.

ENGAGEMENT/WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you, or your parents, are residents of Belleville, Brownstown, New Boston, Romulus, or Taylor, **the little paper** will be happy to print an announcement of your engagement or wedding. If possible, please enclose a photograph. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

the little paper
P.O. Box 74038
Romulus, MI 48174-0038

Bride's Name _____
City _____ State _____
Groom's Name _____
City _____ State _____
Bride's Parents _____
City _____ State _____
Groom's Parents _____
City _____ State _____
Bridesmaids _____
Groomsmen _____
Date of Engagement _____
Date of Wedding _____
Place _____
City _____ State _____
Reception _____
City _____ State _____
Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions): _____

Attach any additional information
concerning the wedding or engagement to this form.

Wedding Bells

Raymond II and Loretta (Rozdoske) Burns



Loretta and Raymond Burns

Congratulations to Raymond II and Loretta (Rozdoske) Burns of Adrian, Michigan, who were married on Tuesday, March 3, 2009.

The couple exchanged their vows during a beachside ceremony in Destin, Florida.

Loretta's matron of honor was her sister, Lisas Mendenhall. Raymond's brother, Steve Burns, was his best man. Leonard Rozdoske III and Eleanor Rozdoske, the bride's nephew and niece, served as the ring bearer and flower girl.

A reception will be held in Dearborn Heights, Michigan, on Saturday, May 2.

Loretta is the daughter of Leonard and Eleanor Rozdoske of Romulus, Michigan. A clinical therapist for Family Counseling and Children's Services, she received her bachelor's degree from Albion College and a master's degree from the University of Detroit Mercy.

Raymond – the son of Raymond Burns of North Carolina and Lorraine Burgess of Onsted, Michigan – is studying for a degree in chiropractic medicine. □

Obituaries

Roy C. Butler

Roy C. Butler of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Sunday, March 1, 2009, at the age of 73.

The son of the late Curtis and Tommie Mae (Ackeridge) Butler was born in Good Hope, Georgia, on Thursday, August 8, 1935.

Roy was truly a "people person" who loved children, the elderly, and everyone in between. He was a true entertainer and talented musician with a passion for singing. He also enjoyed photography.

Surviving Roy are his wife, E. Marie (Beanum) Butler; a sister, Julia Butler (Dallas, TX); and many nephews, nieces, cousins, and friends. Among those who preceded him in passing were his sisters, Martha M. Frowner and Catherine Butler.

In keeping with Roy's wishes, cremation rites were accorded and a private memorial service was held. Arrangements were entrusted to Crane Funeral Home (Romulus). Memorial tributes directed to the family would be greatly appreciated.

Clements Patrias

Clements Patrias of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Thursday, February 26, 2009, at the age of 87.

Clements, a charter member of the Romulus Historical Society, enjoyed his

retirement by collecting and restoring antiques, painting, yard work, and gardening.

Surviving him are six children, Mary Ann (Tom) Michniewicz, Jeanne Foust, Linda Patrias, Michael Patrias, Stephen (Delaine) Patrias, and Frances (Daniel II) Wicker; 12 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Among those who preceded him in passing were his beloved wife, Lillian Patrias, as well as 12 brothers and sisters.

A funeral mass was held on Saturday, February 28, at St. Aloysius Catholic Church (Romulus). Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park (Flat Rock). Arrangements were entrusted to Michigan Memorial Funeral Home. □

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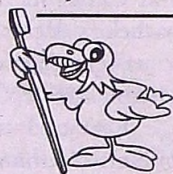
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